(c) whether Government have received letters and memoranda from MPs from Gujarat, and others for introducing some trains from Gujarat during the above period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on each one ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of new trains introduced from 1983-84 onwards are as under :—

Year	Trains introduced			Total	Trains serving Gujarat
	(B.G.)	(M.G.)	(N.G.)		
1983-84	84	66	8	158	5
1984-85	96	26	2	124	3
1985-86	8	—	—	8	—
1986-87	20	16	6	42	1
1987-88 (upto Oct '87)	42	17	—	59	2

(c) and (d) A large number of requests are regularly received from all parts of the country for new trains and improvements in existing rail travel facilities. It is not practicable to furnish details of all such requests. However, relative merits of the various proposals are examined and new services provided based on the available facilities and the resources at the disposal of the Railways

Railway accidents in Gujarat

1235. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) What is the number of accidents occurred in Gujarat during the period from 1st January, 1987 to 31st October, 1987;

(b) what are the details of each accident;

(c) what is the loss of lives and property in each such accident;

(d) the compensation paid in each case;

(e) what are the details of reports on each accident; and

(f) what are the actions taken to avert the accidents on Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (e) Statistics of railway accidents and related indices are maintained railway Zone-wise and not State-wise.

(f) Some of the important safety measures taken to avert the accidents on Railways are :

(i) Intensification of field inspections and counselling of staff.

(ii) Identification of accident-prone areas by High-level Safety Teams and remedial measures thereon.

(iii) Induction of modern technological aids like ultrasonic testing of rails and rolling stick axles, provision of track circuiting, axle-counters, auxiliary warning system, etc.

(iv) Programmed rehabilitation of assets.

(v) Improvement in quality of staff training.

Teaching of children of Santhali Tribals

1236. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Santhali (Tribe) children are taught at Primary stage in different script in spite of having Santhali script 'OL CIKI' in some States;

(b) whether it is Government's policy to impart education in mother tongue in different scripts i.e. Hindi, Oriya, Roman etc.; and

(c) if not, what are the details of the steps Government are taking to remove this disparity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c) Article No. 350(A) of the Constitution stipulates that every State and local authority within the State should try to provide adequate facility for instruction in mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups In pursuance of this stipulation the policy of the Government has been that at primary stage instruction in the medium of mother tongue should be arranged for students belonging to linguistic minorities when such a facility is desired by at least 40 students in a school or 10 in a class. At secondary stage similar facility should be provided if at least 60 students in the last four classes and 15 students in each class desire it Most of the States have generally been following this policy. However, difficulties are being encountered such as administrative and financial feasibility of providing instructional facilities through a variety of mother tongues, difficulty to use some tribal languages as media of education, development of script, preparation and production of textual material, reference books etc.

The Government is not aware of any specific complaint in regard to non-teaching of children at primary stage in Santhali script. Wherever specific instances came to the notice of Government of India of the abovementioned policy not having been followed, the Government has taken up the matter with the concerned State Government.

Private parties to run air-taxi services

1237. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to permit private parties to run air-taxi services in the country is still under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the routes which are likely to be covered under the scheme; and

(c) the earnings which are likely to accrue to Government from the licence fee, other charges and taxes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The guidelines on the operation of Air Taxi Services in the country were made public on 14-11-86. Any citizen of India, or a group of individuals of Indian nationality or public sector undertakings of the Govt. of India/ State Govts are eligible to apply for Air Taxi Operating Certificate.

(b) Air Taxi Service is a non-scheduled charter service which can operate from certain notified air-fields.

(c) Applications for Air Taxi Operating Certificate are required to be submitted to DGCA, New Delhi in the prescribed form alongwith a Bank Draft of Rs. 25,000/- drawn on any scheduled bank in favour of DGCA, New Delhi. The Air Taxi Operating Certificate is renewable every year against a payment of fee of Rs. 5,000/- by way of a Bank draft.

Suicide by Scientist in ICMR

1238. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a scientist working in the Institute of Pathology of the Indian Council of Medical Research has committed suicide in September, 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he has left behind a note alleging harassment by his superiors; and

(c) whether any police case has been registered, inquiry instituted and if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Inquiry Officer's report does not indicate any harassment of the scientist, Dr. R. K. Saxena, who committed suicide. On the contrary, the Inquiry Officer has